

10. (Twice Amended) A multi-layer golf ball comprising:
a dual core having a center component and a core layer disposed about said center component; and a cover disposed about said dual core;
wherein said center component comprises a thermoset material and said core layer comprises a thermoplastic material;
wherein said cover includes at least an outer cover layer having a Shore D hardness of from about 50 to 55 and an inner cover layer having a Shore D hardness of 60 or more.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested. Claims 1-18, as amended, remain pending in the present application. For the reasons more particularly set forth below, it is respectfully submitted that the amended claims are in condition for allowance.

Rejection of Claims 1-9 Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph

The Examiner rejected claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as reportedly containing subject matter which is not described in the specification. According to the Examiner, the specification limits the Shore D hardness values of the outer cover layer to a value not greater than 55. In view of this rejection, independent claim 1 has been amended in order to reflect this upper value limit as suggested by the Examiner. In view of this amendment, the § 112 rejection covering claims 1-9 is believed to be surpassed. As a result, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections of Claim 1-4 and 6-9 as Being Anticipated Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4 and 6-9 under 36 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being directly anticipated by Yamagishi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,688,595). The grounds for the Examiner's rejections are as follows: